GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:142
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2001
INTERNET TELEPHONY
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to permit internet telephony;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme, if any, prepared in this regard; and

(c) the likely impact of the decision on the share value and the process of disinvestment of VSNL?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 142 FOR 28TH NOVEMBER, 2001 REGARDING INTERNET TELEPHONY.

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to permit Internet Telephony.

(b) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997, it is mandatory to seek the recommendations of the TRAI for terms and conditions of the licence. Accordingly, the recommendations of TRAI has been sought on 20/7/2001 and which are awaited.TRAI has issued a consultation paper on 23rd November, 2001 for the same.

(c) The decision to further disinvest VSNL was taken on 1st February, 2001.The share value of any company depends on several factors.